

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-14 SSM-05
EUR-12 /079 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
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USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
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THE ARAB COUNTRIES, AND TODAY SOLUTIONS, A MONTH AGO
CONSIDERED UNATTAINABLE, HAVE BEEN SUDDENLY BROUGHT
WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY.

TODAY FEW NATIONS IN THE WORLD WOULD CHALLENGE THE
PROPOSITION THAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS HAVE CREATED A
UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE IDEA OF PEACE HAS

CAPTURED THE IMAGINATION AND IGNITED THE HOPES OF A WAR-WEARY REGION. THE GOVERNMENT LEADERS WHO ARE CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY, AS WELL AS THE CHALLENGE OF NEGOTIATING, CAN DO SO WITH THE CONFIDENCE THAT THERE IS TODAY AN OVERWHELMING PUBLIC CONSTITUENCY IN THE REGION FOR PEACE.

ALL OF US IN THIS ROOM WOULD AGREE THAT WE MUST NOT ALLOW THE MOMENTUM OF THESE EVENTS TO BE LOST. PRESIDENT SADAT HAS CALLED THIS MEETING TO PREPARE FOR A RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, THE OBJECTIVE OF WHICH REMAINS THE NEGOTIATION, AMONG ALL THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, OF A FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT ON THE BASIS OF RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. I MUST RECORD MY GOVERNMENT'S REGRET THAT OTHERS INVITED TO THIS MEETING HAVE FELT UNABLE TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION TO ATTEND. ULTIMATELY I BELIEVE THOSE ABSENT WILL SEE THAT THE PROCESS BEGUN HERE IS IN THEIR BENEFIT. WE ARE ALL AGREED THE DOOR REMAINS OPEN FOR OTHERS TO JOIN AT ANY TIME.

MY GOVERNMENT -- INDEED EACH OF THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED HERE -- HAS EMPHASIZED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT OUR OBJECTIVE IS THE NEGOTIATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT. CENTRAL TO MY GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OVER THE YEARS IS THE CONCEPT THAT THIS PEACE CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 ESTABLISHED THE PRINCIPLES FOR THOSE NEGOTIATIONS. RESOLUTION 338, WHICH MADE A CONVENING OF THE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA POSSIBLE, ESTABLISHED THE PROCESS. WE HAVE ALWAYS HELD THE VIEW THAT WHEREVER AND WHENEVER THE PARTIES CAN START TALKING WITH ONE ANOTHER, IT IS IN THE SPIRIT OF THAT MANDATE.

WE SEE THE DISCUSSIONS GETTING UNDERWAY TODAY IN CAIRO AS AN INTEGRAL AND CONTRIBUTORY STEP TOWARD A RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THE NEGOTIATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. WE DO NOT AGREE THAT THESE PROCEEDINGS ARE CONTRADICTORY TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. AS PRESIDENT CARTER SAID, "THE ROAD TOWARD PEACE WHICH HAS ALREADY LED THROUGH JERUSALEM WILL NOW GO TO CAIRO, AND ULTIMATELY WE BELIEVE TO A COMPREHENSIVE CONSULTATION AT GENEVA."

IN CALLING FOR THIS PREPARATORY MEETING, PRESIDENT SADAT HAS INDICATED TWO BASIC OBJECTIVES: MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLVING THE SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS, AND OVERCOMING THE REMAINING UNRESOLVED PROCEDURAL OBSTACLES TO A GENEVA CONFERENCE. WE BELIEVE THESE ARE REALISTIC AND OBTAINABLE GOALS, AND THAT VALUABLE WORK CAN BE DONE HERE. WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO HELP THE TWO

NEGOTIATING PARTIES MAKE PROGRESS. IT IS FOR THEM TO
DEFINE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THESE
DISCUSSIONS, BUT WE WILL REMAIN AVAILABLE TO OFFER COUNSEL,
SUGGESTIONS, OR ANY OTHER ASSISTANCE THE PARTIES MAY
FEEL THEY NEED.

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WE ARE OPENING THESE TALKS AT A UNIQUE MOMENT. ALL OF US HERE MUST NOT ONLY HOPE WE HAVE REACHED A TURNING POINT IN HISTORY BUT ALSO MUST MAKE OUR CONTRIBUTION TO ENSURE THAT IT WILL INDEED PROVE TO BE A LASTING TURNING POINT. THE LEADERS OF OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS -- AND OUR PEOPLES -- ARE EXPECTING US TO ACHIEVE SOLID RESULTS AT THIS MEETING AND WE SHOULD NOT FAIL THEM. AS PRESIDENT CARTER RECENTLY SAID, "WE MAY BE FACING NOW THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR A PERMANENT MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT IN OUR LIFETIME. WE MUST NOT LET IT SLIP BY."

IN CLOSING, MR. CHAIRMAN, I HOPE YOU WILL PERMIT ME TO INDULGE IN A BRIEF PERSONAL REFLECTION. FOR MANY YEARS I HAVE LABORED, ON BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT AND WITH COUNTLESS COLLEAGUES -- SOME OF WHOM HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN THE EFFORT -- TO HELP OUR ARAB AND ISRAELI FRIENDS FIND A BREAKTHROUGH TO PEACE. I HAVE SHARED AND, I THINK, HAVE ACQUIRED SOME UNDERSTANDING OF THE AGONIES BOTH SIDES EXPERIENCE AS THEY FACE DECISIONS FATEFUL FOR THE FUTURE OF THEIR PEOPLES -- AND, INDEED, FOR THE WORLD. IT IS A GREAT PERSONAL SATISFACTION TO BE PART OF THESE TALKS WHICH HOLD OUT SO MUCH HOPE THAT THE LONG- SOUGHT BREAKTHROUGH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. THE NEGOTIATION OF DEEPLY-ROOTED DIFFERENCES INVOLVING VITAL NATIONAL INTERESTS IS NEVER A SMOOTH OR EASY TASK, AND WE CAN EXPECT MOMENTS OF DISCOURAGEMENT. THESE MUST AND CAN BE OVERCOME, HOWEVER, IF THE GOVERNMENTS WE SERVE, AND WE PERSONALLY, KEEP BEFORE US THE VISION WE ALL SHARE

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TODAY OF A PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS MIDDLE EAST. MY GOVERNMENT IS FULLY DEDICATED TO THAT VISION.

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